LIFE IN NATURE ON LAKE MICHIGAN

New Buffalo Times

NEWS
$1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN • SINCE 1942

CHICAGO • LONG BEACH • MICHIANA SHORES • GRAND BEACH • NEW BUFFALO • UNION PIER • THREE OAKS • LAKESIDE • HARBERT • SAWYER

issue 25, volume 83 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, June 20, 2024

Three Oaks council discusses future ownship of community garden **PAGE 3**

New Buffalo Township board approves non motorized path proposal **PAGE 4**

City council approves budget amendments, millage language **PAGE 6**

New Buffalo senior crowned 2024 Miss Michigan's Teen Third Runner-up **PAGE 6**

Snoop Dogg visits The Bloomery dispensary in New Buffalo **PAGE 14**

Dawn McKenna Group celebrates New Buffalo launch **PAGE 22**

'MERELY' FRESHMEN...
MUSIC FOR THE AGES AT ACORN MUSIC FESTIVAL

— PAGE 12 —

PHOTO OF MEMBERS OF THE VERVE PIPE HEADLINING SATURDAY'S SHOW BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Harbor Country Insurance Agency

Gregory A. Bubb, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI

www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.com

Call before you leave these things to chance.

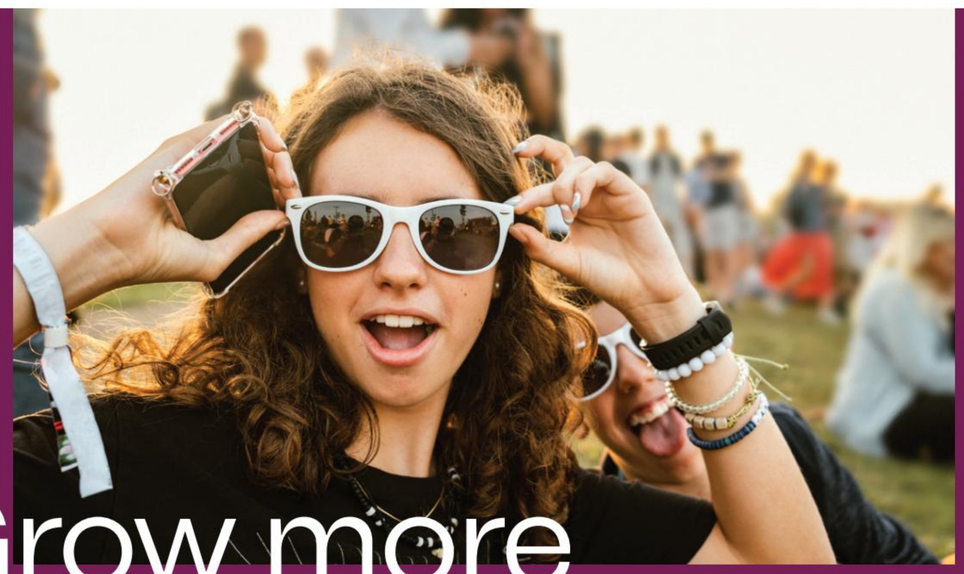
Michigan Problem Gambling Help Line

1-800-270-7117

FREE CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

MDHHS Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

www.gambleresponsibly.org This advertisement sponsored by THE POKAGON FUND



Grow more *confident* every day.

Open Student Rewards Checking for your teen: no monthly account fees*, instant transfers, cash rewards.
everwisecu.com/StudentRewards

everwise CREDIT UNION

Federally insured by NCUA. Subject to membership requirements. *Low $2 monthly fee will be waived if you sign up for eStatements.

Barney's
Find us on Facebook

These prices good Thurs., June 20 through Wed., June 26, 2024.
We reserve all rights to limit quantity and selection rights. No rainchecks.

GRILLING GREATS

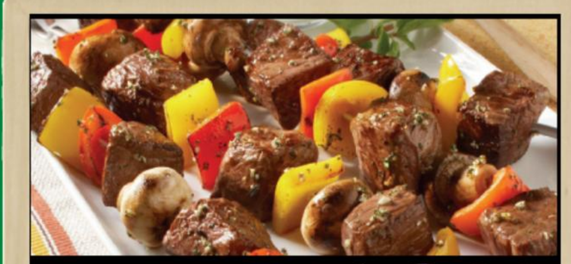
Enjoy restaurant quality meats at home! And our pre-seasoned and marinated offerings mean faster grilling times.

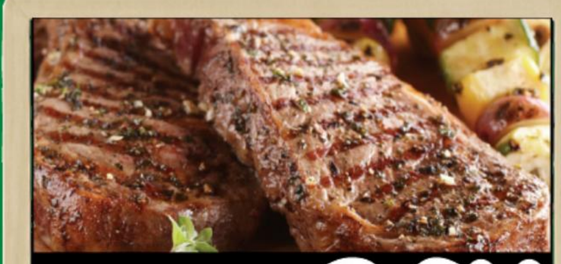
Miller All Natural Air Chilled
CHICKEN SPLIT BREAST $3.49 lb.

Boneless Thick Cut Loin
SEASONED PORK CHOPS $4.49 lb.

Several Flavors to Choose From! Barney's Boneless
MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST $6.99 lb.

Barney' All Natural 100% Pork!
FRESH PORK SPARERIBS $3.49 lb.


Combined Beef & Vegetable
STORE MADE BEEF KABOBS $10.99 lb.


USDA PRIME CUT BEEF!
BONELESS RIBEYE STEAK $26.99 lb.

10 N. THOMPSON ST., NEW BUFFALO Phone 269-469-1210 OPEN EVERY DAY 7 AM - 10 PM www.barneysmarket.com

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

ETHICS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PROPRIETOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.

EDITOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
EDITORIAL BOARD

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
JOE DURK

REPORTERS/WRITERS
THERESE DONNELLY
FRANCESCA SAGALA
LAWRENCE VON EBELER
KURT MARGGRAF
ALEXANDER FATOUROS
SOPHIA R. FATOUROS
STAN MADDUX
KRISTIN E. FATOUROS
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
NEW BUFFALO TIMES POLITICS
GUESTS

QUOTES
DINO N. FATOUROS

PROOFING
FRANCESCA SAGALA

BROADCAST/ADVERTISING
JANINE ADAMSKI (630) 370-0820
OR JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM

SUGGESTIONS, CRITICISM, IDEAS
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

ADVERTISING
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS
CLASSIFIEDS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS
SUBSCRIPTIONS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH NEW BUFFALO TIMES
INFO@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

Periodical Postage paid in
New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster,
please send address changes to:
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

©2024 NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.
PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

NEW BUFFALO TIMES distribution:
Milda's Corner Market • Sawyer Garden Center • The Whistle Stop
David's Delicatessen • Barney's
Knoll Bros. • Stray Dog
Infusco Coffee Roasters
Black Currant Bakehouse
The Marina Grand • Redamak's
Big C Lumber
Between Casey's and Nancy's
Sawyer Hardware • The Harbor Grand
Froehlics - Three Oaks
Journeyman Distillery - Three Oaks
The Acorn Theater - Three Oaks
The Lakeside Inn

For the most convenient location, you can subscribe to get the *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* in your mailbox or inbox. Please email us for E-TIMES, info@newbuffalotimes.com.

Three Oaks council discusses future ownship of community garden

BY THERESE DONNELLY

Future ownership of the Three Oaks Community Garden is unclear as a new possible owner has expressed interest in the land.

Previously, the Three Oaks Village Council had been informed there was an opportunity for the village to acquire the plot on Oak Street. At their June 12 meeting, the council learned the Pokagon Fund has expressed interest in obtaining the land and leasing the garden portion to the village.

Village Manager Dan Faulkner informed the council AEP is planning to move power lines to the center of the lot. After discussion, the council agreed to make a decision at their July meeting after Faulkner had time to work on a purchase agreement with the Pokagon Fund.

The garden was created in 2011, with the help of a grant from the Pokagon Fund.

Plans to expand Chamberlain Path are proceeding. The council approved plans to remove the driveway along the north side of 21 N. Elm Street and install a rain garden in the park.

The council also approved the purchase of 12 shrubs and 12 grasses to be planted in Carver Park.

The Three Oaks Police Department is on the verge of adding a new officer. Chief Carl Krause introduced the council to Benjamin Mulder, the candidate selected for the position. Karuse said Mulder has already satisfactorily completed a background check. The council approved a conditional job offer, pending health screenings and completion of the police academy.

Krause said Mulder has an associates degree from Lake Michigan College.

The council discussed a bid from Wightman and Associates to oversee the design engineering and bidding for the sidewalk improvement project. Council member Lois Jones pointed out that the council had previously decided there was no need for such professional services on the project.

The council scheduled a Truth in Taxation hearing for June 20, starting at 6 p.m.

Village Manager Dan Faulkner informed the council AEP is planning to move power lines to the center of the lot. After discussion, the council agreed to make a decision at their July meeting after Faulkner had time to work on a purchase agreement with the Pokagon Fund.

Faulkner announced the water department has applied to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to replace the media in the water filters. EGLE returned the application, requesting further information.

Hydrant flushing in the village has concluded and Faulkner said sanitary flushing will begin in July.

Faulkner also said 30 homes in the village will receive sampling bottles to monitor for lead in the village water supply. The sampling is part of a monitoring schedule identified three years ago.

Village President Richard Smith thanked the "many, many volunteers" who helped with Flag Day activities in the village the weekend of June 8. A resident asked the council to consider restricting parking on Hickory Street to one side during events, saying the number of vehicles on both sides of the street during the Flag Day Parade caused congestion that could have created a safety issue if emergency vehicles needed to pass through.

One of the most common characteristics of a malicious person is an insatiable desire for power, inevitably leading them to manipulate positions of authority and the people around them. It's not uncommon for such a person to cultivate friendships with leaders for personal gain and to use their proximity to power as a weapon against others' natural interests.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

New Buffalo Township board approves non motorized path proposal

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A $250,300 proposal from Antero Group for the engineering, surveying, permitting and project and construction management of a non motorized trail on Harbor Country Drive was approved at the New Buffalo Township Board's Monday, June 17, meeting.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that the Berrien County Road Department will be resurfacing Harbor Country Drive next year.

Antero Group will alleviate some of the costs the road department would have, which the township will end up paying for "one way or another." "They will do some surveying and so on for the whole road and the path, so we can kill two birds with one stone," Heit said.

The budget amendments and resolution for the 2024-2025 fiscal year were adopted.

Board members adopted the General Operation millages of .3758 mill, the Park millage of .3618 mill and Public Safety Special Assessment of 2.1 mills.

Due to the Headleee rollback, Heit said that the millage rates were lower than last year's, as last year's operating millage was .3843 mills and the park one, which was passed last year, was .37 mills. The special assessment isn't subject to the Headlee rollback.

A 4% increase for all full-time employees, including the fire chief, assistant fire chief and fire inspector, was approved with the following exceptions: utility superintendent and park director annual salary and financial administrator wage increased 6%; cleaning and maintenance wage increased 4%; building administrator salary increased 15%; planning commissioner coordinator annual salary increased 15%; zoning administrator/ZBA coordinator annual salary increased 15%; building and zoning/utility assistant hourly pay increased 10% and firefighter wages and training wages increased 3%.

The following increases were also approved: Board of Review increased to $100 for under four hours, $200 for four or more hours per day; planning commission chair, $150 per meeting and planning commissioner $125 per meeting and BA, $125 per meeting, ZBA chair $125 per meeting plus $75 per hearing.

A resolution to establish township officer's salaries, effective July 1, was adopted. Per the resolution, the treasurer, clerk and supervisor will receive $57,500 annually, which is a roughly 6 percent increase from last year.

The Public Safety Millage Resolution regarding extra-voted millage for public safety services, which states that the township still has a second public safety millage but is choosing not to collect it, was adopted.

Board members approved donating $1,000 to the New Buffalo Business Association for New Buffalo-based vendors at the NBBA Farmers Market for either their booth or insurance expenses.

After being asked to be a sponsor last month, Heit said that it was determined that the township would help out an actual local, New Buffalo vendor with their booth rent or insurance.

Preliminary approval of a Special Land Use for Native Leaf, Inc. to operate an adult-use marihuana retail establishment at 19689 U.S. 12 was approved

A special land use to Christopher Yermain to operate an adult-use marihuana retail establishment at 11509 Wilson Road was denied. The Planning Commission recommended that the SLU be denied because it's considered the parcel abuts an AGR District and it's located on Wilson Road, which is not included as per the districts defined within the New Buffalo Township Ordinance.

Updated policies and procedures for water and sewer regarding sanitary sewer, sewer laterals, connections to existing mains, hydrants, valve boxes, water main and fittings, water services and preliminary construction and utility procedures were approved.

Board members approved a bid for $73,484, which was recommended by Wightman & Associates, from B and Z Company for the water meter replacement project. Heit said that some meters are in people's homes and need to be set outside.

An Opioid Antagonist Policy, which outlines training and use of Narcan at the hall, was adopted.

Board members approved Heit signing a letter of engagement with Straub, Seaman Allen, which raised its wage to $200 an hour, for legal services.

A $10,300 from First Due for reporting software for the fire department was approved.

The first and second change orders for a new Rosenbauer truck, with the first one being a decrease of $2,024 and the second one an increase of $9,55, were approved.

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.
— Henry David Thoreau

Groth family at the Lavender Bliss Flower Farm grand opening

Ribbon snipped to celebrate Lavender Bliss Flower Farm

Lavender Bliss Flower Farm celebrated its grand season opening Friday, June 14, in Bridgman.

The Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce was on hand to officially snip a ribbon as the family swung open the gate to their fragrant gardens of over 2,000 lavender plants for the public to enjoy.

After 40 years of property ownership, owners Harry and Janet Groth dreamed their big empty field could be something more. Big ideas bloomed when they discovered how well lavender grows there and the multitude of colorful varieties and byproducts that can be made from the flower.

"We wanted our farm to be more than a place where you cut a bundle of lavender and leave, so we filled it with comfy places to sit, beautiful places to snap a photo, relaxing music and lots of love," Janet said.

They welcome visitors to relax and wander through rows of tranquil blooms, while enjoying a cup of fresh lavender lemonade. The cottage-style gardens that are adorned with eclectic pieces are fun for all ages to discover. Customers can cut their own lavender bouquet from over 14 varieties with provided shears or peruse the refurbished grain bin gift shop for pre-cut bundles and lavender plants. Their selection is full of handmade lavender products and gifts including sachets, lip balm, body butter, soap, steamers, salts, t-shirts, tote bags and more.

The idyllic setting is perfect to capture stunning personal photos or photos for high school seniors, families, engagements and baby smiles when reserved by a professional photographer. Lavender fans are encouraged to attend upcoming events to learn how they turn fragrant blooms into essential oil at the Distilling Demonstration or make forever friend memories at the Lavender Haze Ladies Night.

Lavender Bliss Flower Farm continues to expand because, as Janet says, "Once you start it's hard to stop! Come watch us grow!"

To visit, begin at the sign that leads down the country lane. Lavender Bliss Flower Farm is located at 11126 Lange Road in Bridgman, Michigan.

For more information, visit www.lavenderblissflowerfarm.com, or on Instagram and Facebook, or call 269-326-2492. Hours of operation are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. — STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo library program to explore the 'nature of consciousness'

Albert R. Fernandez, professor emeritus of Cultural History and Humanities at North Central College, will examine the nature of consciousness in a program at the New Buffalo Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 25.

"Because it cannot be observed in the same way that a scientist can observe plants or planets or, for that matter, brain cells, it seems that consciousness will always remain something of a mystery," Fernandez said.

He added that attempts to explain consciousness were made by Rene Descartes in the 17th century and by many philosophers and thinkers since, including Sigmund Freud, Jean-Paul Sartre and Roger Penrose.

Fernandez's talk, "What is Consciousness," is part of the Friends of the New Buffalo Library's Community Forum lecture series. All are welcome to attend, and there is no charge for admission.

The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

TOWN SQUARE

LETTERS TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*:

THE VIEWS HERE DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*. THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* ASKS THAT YOUR LETTER TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*, BE UNIQUE, KIND AND BASED ON REASONED FACTS. THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* RESERVES THE RIGHT TO NOT PUBLISH ANY CORRESPONDENCE FOR ANY REASON. PLEASE KEEP YOUR LETTERS TO 300 WORDS OR FEWER. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE EMAIL YOUR LETTER TO INFO@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM. THANK YOU.

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS...

River Valley Blessings in a Backpack would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped provide food on the weekends for school children who might otherwise go hungry.

Our partners included Harbert Community Church, Harbor Country Rotary Club, Three Oaks United Methodist Church, Harding's Friendly Market in Three Oaks, Greenbush Brewery and The Pokagon Fund as well as dozens of individual volunteers and donors.

Your acts of kindness may seem small, but the impact on children is enormous. Thank you all for 11 successful years of feeding children in need!

— VICKIE WAGNER, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

City council approves budget amendments, millage language

BY THERESE DONNELLY

The New Buffalo City Council used their June 17 meeting to approve amendments to the 2023-2023 city budget.

Budget amendments are routine in order to adjust for unexpected costs throughout the fiscal year.

In separate actions, the council also approved resolutions for ballot wording on the city road millage at .25 mills for 20 years and a park millage renewal for .5 mills for five years. Wording must be submitted to the Berrien County Clerk to be included in the Nov. 5 ballot.

The Apple Cider Century Bicycle Tour received approval on their special event application regarding their annua bike ride. The one-day bike tour includes routes of varying distances through Harbor Country and a portion of La Porte, Indiana.

The application allows organizers to use the tables trash receptacles and tables at Oselka Park for a rest stop.

The council approved two appointments to the Planning Commission to fill empty seats. Katha Kissman and Debbie Schmidt will both serve terms ending in May 2027.

At a previous meeting, the council approved the purchase of a new police vehicle for the New Buffalo Police Department. At the June meeting, the council approved the purchase of equipment required to use that vehicle for patrols. Equipment includes a prisoner cage for the back seat, a push bumper, in-car computer and camera. The council approved a purchase from HEI Wireless and Midwest Public Safety totaling $15,972. City Manager Darwin Watson told the council the cost is included in the 2023-2025 budget.

The council also approved the purchase of a new copy machine from Parrett Office Products for the administrative office. Watson said the current machine's warranty has expired and staff has not been able to get the vendor to address mechanical issues. The new machine will cost $7280.

The city applied for a grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) for engineering services as part of city improvements. At the June meeting, it was announced the city had received a $600,000 grant to be spent on service line excavation, administrative and engineering services. The council voted to approve the acceptance of the grant, which does not require a local matching amount.

Solstice Celebration at Goldberry Woods

On Saturday, June 22, 4-6 p.m., Goldberry Woods invites the community to celebrate Summer Solstice–the beginning of Summer. The Solstices are points in the year where families and communities across the world celebrate and reflect. There are various traditions and rituals, most notably a celebration of the hard work of Spring.

Goldberry Woods is no stranger to hard work, especially this past spring. They have been busy since the new year renovating and improving all parts of their 30 acre property, including their luxury accommodations at the Inn, Cottages, and the fully plumbed Vintage Campers.

The Farm and Gardens are in full bloom and some of their first produce is available at the Market Stand. In the beginning of June, the team harvested garlic scapes and will feature them at the Solstice Celebration Taco Bar.

At the event guests can leisurely explore Goldberry Woods trails, try the on-property Scavenger Hunt, play games, listen to music, create art and socialize.

For more details and RSVP visit www.goldberrywoods.com/specials#experiences.

— STAFF REPORTS

NEW BUFFALO SENIOR CROWNED 2024 MISS MICHIGAN'S TEEN THIRD RUNNER-UP

Ellen Ripley, a senior at New Buffalo High School who resides in New Buffalo, was crowned 2024 Miss Michigan's Teen Third Runner Up, Miss Michigan's Teen Miss Congeniality and received the Excellence in Interview Award at the Miss Michigan competition at the historical Frauenthal Theater in downtown Muskegon Friday, June 14.

Ellen is the daughter of Tracy and Bryan Ripley. Her service initiative was "A Chance to Dance," with the goal of making dancing affordable and accessible for all.

Ellen was one of 17 Miss Michigan Teen contestants representing all parts of the state.

In October, she was crowned Miss Sunset Coast Teen, the only preliminary competition in Berrien, Van Buren and Cass counties that leads to the Miss Michigan pageant and, ultimately, Miss America.

Crowned 2024 Miss Michigan's Teen was 2024 Miss Shoreline's Teen Isabella Musk from Twin Lake, Michigan, who attends Whitehall High School.

First runner-up was Miss Bay County's Teen Grace Hanke, second runner-up was Miss Oakland County's Teen Claudia Kenny and fourth runner-up was Miss Jackson Crossroads Teen Camdyn Guerra. — STAFF REPORTS

Ellen Ripley graces the stage at Friday's competition

Chikaming Township Board denies SLU request for communication tower

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board of Trustees denied a special land use request for a communication tower at Tower Hill at their Thursday, June 13, meeting.

Fred Low, an engineer with Ganymede Corporation, who was speaking on behalf of TowerCo, was requesting the installation of an unmanned, 185-foot communication tower with a 5-foot lightning rod on top in a 50-foot-by-50-foot area being leased to Tower Co. by Tower Hill Camp Association.

Concerns raised from residents, who reside in the single family homes surrounding the Tower Hill Camp property, who packed Chikaming Township Center ranged from how the tower would change the natural character of the area; health and safety, with one resident providing research on possible adverse, long-term effects on people, animals and plants from radio frequency emissions and the lowering of property values.

It was stated that the board had received 27 emails, and a petition signed by 30-some individuals opposing it.

Low said that TowerCo evaluates properties in the area and identifies ones that will fit a tower on it and "fit the ordinance requirements."

He said he did this on request of AT&T through Tower Hill and that he approached Tower Hill in 2022.

The company then looks for co-location opportunities "within the target search area," with Low adding that there were "no existing structures in this search area that we could co-locate on."

In looking for a new site, TowerCo looks at the existing ordinance. Low said he talked with zoning administrator Kelly Largent, about the parameters that had to be met before searching for property. Tower Co signed a lease with Tower Hill Camp and moved forward with getting zoning approval.

In May, after the Planning Commission reviewed the site plan, some revisions, such as making the drive wider, were made; however, Low maintained that the plan had "always met ordinance requirements."

The tower appeared again on the Planning Commission's June agenda, during which they recommended that the board approve the SLU.

Bill Marske, who represents the board on the Planning Commission, abstained from the June 13 vote.

When asked by Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte if the nearby Warren Dunes State Park was a consideration for a tower location, Low said that, while it was considered, it wouldn't be "allowable" under existing law.

Bunte said that, while the site may fit the zoning requirements, it's a special land use.

"It doesn't necessarily mean it is possibly the right or wrong place for it in a residential area, wooded area, aesthetically for a number of different reasons," he said, adding that the state park being to the north also doesn't make the tower "compatible with that environment."

He added that the ordinance states that proceeding with an SLU requires that there be compatibility with the natural environment.

Trustee Liz Rettig concurred, stating that she doesn't feel it fits in aesthetically with the surroundings.

Low said that the "impact on the surrounding environment" was "minimized by this footprint, which in this case is only 50 foot by 50 foot." He added this is half the size of what is typical.

Trustee Rich Sullivan said that the pictures that were presented of the proposed tower, which were dated January 2024, show trees with leaves still on them.

"Maybe it would be nice, if you're going to present something like this - it'd be nice if you presented it with the tower in there with the leaves off the tree, which is what people are going to see for a very large part of the time," he said.

Sheets that the Planning Commission was given states that "signage notifying the public of potential high voltage and radio frequency emissions and giving the contact information for the tower owner and operators of all equipment on the site must be posted on exterior fence."

"This is a camp that has a lot of kids - if a warning is required, then why would you even want to put a tower on a campground?" he said.

He added that government sites state that there isn't enough information "to make a conclusion on whether or not there could be a danger from radio frequency waves."

Director of Tower Hill Rev. Tracy Heilman said that Tower Co. presented the plan to their board in 2022 after a lease with another company to look into installing a tower was expiring.

Recently, two people whom she talked with remembered a conversation in 2020 with some people who are from some of the neighborhoods.

While one recalled hearing that the neighbors in the area have horrible cell coverage and would appreciate a tower, another one said they remember the neighbors saying they'd dislike one.

"I thought what I had heard was, 'Yea, I hate the cell coverage around here -' I thought that was a common thing and that it was kind of shared with the neighborhood," she said.

Heilman added that Tower Hill Camp owns 200 feet of beach. The safety plan for if there's an emergency at the beach with children out there calls for three people to run to three different locations due to lack of cell coverage.

Board members approved the fire department upgrading its Medical First Responder licensing to EMIT-Basic Non-Transport.

The replacement of the police department's current two X26P tasers with the more current X7 one, which will be added to the current lease program through Taser, was approved.

An online open burn permit application process was approved.

An agreement with regards to the township's maintenance of the non motorized path along Red Arrow Highway from Berrien County was approved.

Board members adopted a resolution in support of funding for beach restoration and resilience in Michigan. Bunte said that it's requesting shoreline communities support "cost effective sand extraction and deposit in order to build back beach resistance to protect public infrastructure and protect the environment."

A request for Mini Red Dot Sites for gun accuracy and safety was approved.

Board members approved fire chief Allen Weich applying for a Heart of Cook Grant to two Seek Attack PRO VRS Handheld Cameras and Charging Stations.

Board members approved first responders taking a command vehicle home with them to respond to calls for service in our area and neighboring communities.

The appointment of Robin Carroll to the Planning Commission was approved.

Door opens for workforce housing construction in La Porte

BY STAN MADDUX

Plans for workforce housing made affordable through a state tax credit program are moving forward in La Porte.

A combination of 42 single family houses and multi-family townhomes would be offered under a 15-year lease agreement on Jefferson Avenue, Roosevelt Street and Boyd Boulevard.

The developer is Advantix Development Corporation, a not for profit organization that's undertaken other tax credit affordable housing projects in other Indiana cities like Muncie and Marion.

"There is a nationwide affordable housing shortage and we're just doing our part, just a small part to fill that gap," said Brandon Shields, a broker and business development manager for the Evansville based group.

He said the monthly rent paid would be applied to the balance, making the homes very affordable for tenants to purchase toward the end of the lease.

Shields said the purchase price based on the remaining balance on a $220,000 home could be as little as "$10,000 to $12,000."

"After 15 years, those properties have been paid down so much that they can purchase those for pennies on the dollar," he said.

All of the homes would contain three bedrooms.

Shields said monthly rent depending on income would be anywhere from $500 to over $1,100.

He said the prices would be affordable from the cost of construction being offset with money from the sale of tax credits to investors.

"They give us the capital to get the projected started," he said.

One of the sites already designated for single family housing development is the old Washington Elementary School building on Roosevelt St. where up to 20 units along with a day care center are planned.

The remainder of the sites are on a section of Scott Field, a park at 301 E. Jefferson Ave., and a stretch of the heavily industrial Boyd Boulevard south of Indiana 2.

In response to concerns about housing in a heavily traveled industrial area, the city's Director of Community Development and Planning Craig Phillips said there's already a mixture of residential neighborhoods and factories that "peacefully co-exist" in many areas of the city because of how communities were once designed for employees to be able to walk to their jobs.

"That's the way we need to go back to building cities and making cities more walkable," he said.

Phillips also said there are plans to construct pathways for pedestrians along the entire stretch of Boyd Boulevard.

Mike Riehle, president of business services for the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, said transportation issues rank high on the list of concerns from local companies because it impacts the ability of their employees to report for work.

"Employers want people to be able to walk to work," he said.

The site on Boyd Boulevard is a designated industrial area but the city's Board of Zoning Appeals unanimously voted the current zoning there can be changed to accommodate the housing plans.

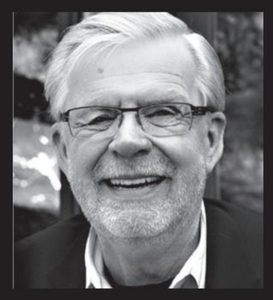
There are still a number of hurdles to jump before construction can start possibly late in 2025.

The plans must be approved during final site plans reviews by the city and the developer's application for tax credits that has to be submitted in late July has to be approved.

"It's a truly unique program," Shields said.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

I hope all of you fathers out there had an excellent Father's Day.

As I write this column, my Father's Day is coming to an end.

I must admit, I'm one of the luckiest people on the face of the earth. To be blessed with two tremendous children and seven wonderful grandchildren makes me so proud.

The fact that they've overcome my missteps and turned out so well is a testament to themselves and their mother, but on Father's Day everyone overlooks the bad and focuses on the good.

For the most part, I'm an optimist, always looking at the bright side of life.

I find life so much more fun thinking that everything will turn out all right, rather than worrying about all of the things that could go wrong.

The point I'm getting to is when the baseball season began this year, I was positive that the Cubs were going to be a playoff team. With a new manager, a new starting pitcher from Japan, the return of their star outfielder/first baseman, and the youngsters chomping at the bit to make the vets play well so they could hold onto their jobs, everything seemed to be in place.

Cub president Jed Hoyer must be an optimist, too. Because he was looking at the bright side, he apparently didn't think that a lot of injuries early in the season would happen.

Because they did happen, relief pitchers had to become starters, and the short handed relief corps fell apart.

Jed also probably didn't plan ahead for the team being in a hitting slump for the first half of the season. No regular starter is hitting more than .267. As a whole, the teams' batting average is a paltry .226 (last in the National league).

Being an optimist has me believing that this run of bad fortune can't continue. The season's not quite half over and unbelievably the Cubs are only a game and a half out of the final wild card berth.

The everyday players are historically good hitters, so they will probably start hitting better. The injuries have to stop, don't they? If they continue to struggle, we can always wait until next year and shift our attention to the Bears.

My friends and I are really positive that the Bears are ready to make a playoff run this season. Our rookie quarterback looks like he's going to be a franchise quarterback and be the best the Bears have ever had.

The receivers are awesome, the running back is an all around back, comparable to Matt Forte. The defense was dominant at the end of last year and should be a top 10 defense this year.

What's not to like?

Jim Gaffigan said, "I don't know what's more exhausting about parenting: the getting up early or the acting like you know what you are doing."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

You can observe a lot by just watching.
— Yogi Berra

1 in 7 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger™.
Join us at **FeedingAmerica.org**

ad COUNCIL

FEEDING AMERICA

Calling all artisans!

FROEHLICH'S Kindlemart 2024

6 of the best shopping days of the year.

Booths Now Available
For more information email
Marketing@shopfroehlichs.com

FROEHLICHS EST. 1992 THREE OAKS

Interested in getting your GED?

NEIGHBOR BY NEIGHBOR IS PARTNERING WITH MICHIGAN WORKS! TO START A FREE GED PROGRAM IN NEW BUFFALO!!!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO AT
269-231-0648 OR
KERI@NEIGHBORBYNEIGHBOR.ORG

Snoop Dogg visits The Bloomery dispensary in New Buffalo

BY STAN MADDUX

Rap music legend Snoop Dogg apparently passed through New Buffalo over the weekend.

His tour bus was outside one of the marijuana dispensaries on Michigan 239 in New Buffalo Township Saturday, June 15.

Dani Fellows, a receptionist at The Bloomery, said the tour bus with large images of Snoop Dogg on both sides pulled up about 10 a.m.

Fellows said a few people from the bus came in and bought some marijuana products that were placed into a medium-sized store bag before leaving about 20 minutes later.

"The Dogg Squad they called them had come in. They had purchased some pre-rolls and stuff,"she said.

Fellows said she took pictures of the tour bus while leaving for the day but didn't see Snoop Dogg, who might have remained on the bus.

"I think they said he was sleeping. I know he had a tour that night. Plus, it was like a last minute stop. I think it was like a security thing," she said.

Fellows said the tour bus attracted a lot of people who took pictures it.

The 31-year-old New Buffalo native, who now resides in Weesaw Township, said it was thrilling to see the tour bus, especially since she's a fan of the rap legend.

"It was exciting. There are so many dispensaries but they had stopped here was pretty awesome," she said.

His tour bus stopping at a marijuana dispensary should not come as a surprise considering Snoop Dogg has made the consumption of marijuana part of his image.

Born Calvin Cordozar Broadus, Jr. in 1971, the Long Beach, California native has sold over 23 million albums in the U.S. and 35 million albums worldwide since he shot to fame in 1992.

Currently, he's in the midst of a tour that includes stops in the U.S. and Canada

Singers invite the public to 'Come Sing Around the Campfire'

The Harbor Country Singers will lead a Campfire Sing-Along at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 27, at the outdoor campfire circle at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, in Harbert.

Songs like "Michael Row the Boat Ashore", "Oh Susannah," "Puff the Magic Dragon" and "Red River Valley" will be included, along with many others.

The event is free, but a food item donation for Neighbor by Neighbor is requested. Song books with music and lyrics will be provided. Musicians are welcome to bring instruments to play along. Logs will be available for seating or bring your own chair or blanket. The event will be moved indoors in case of rain.

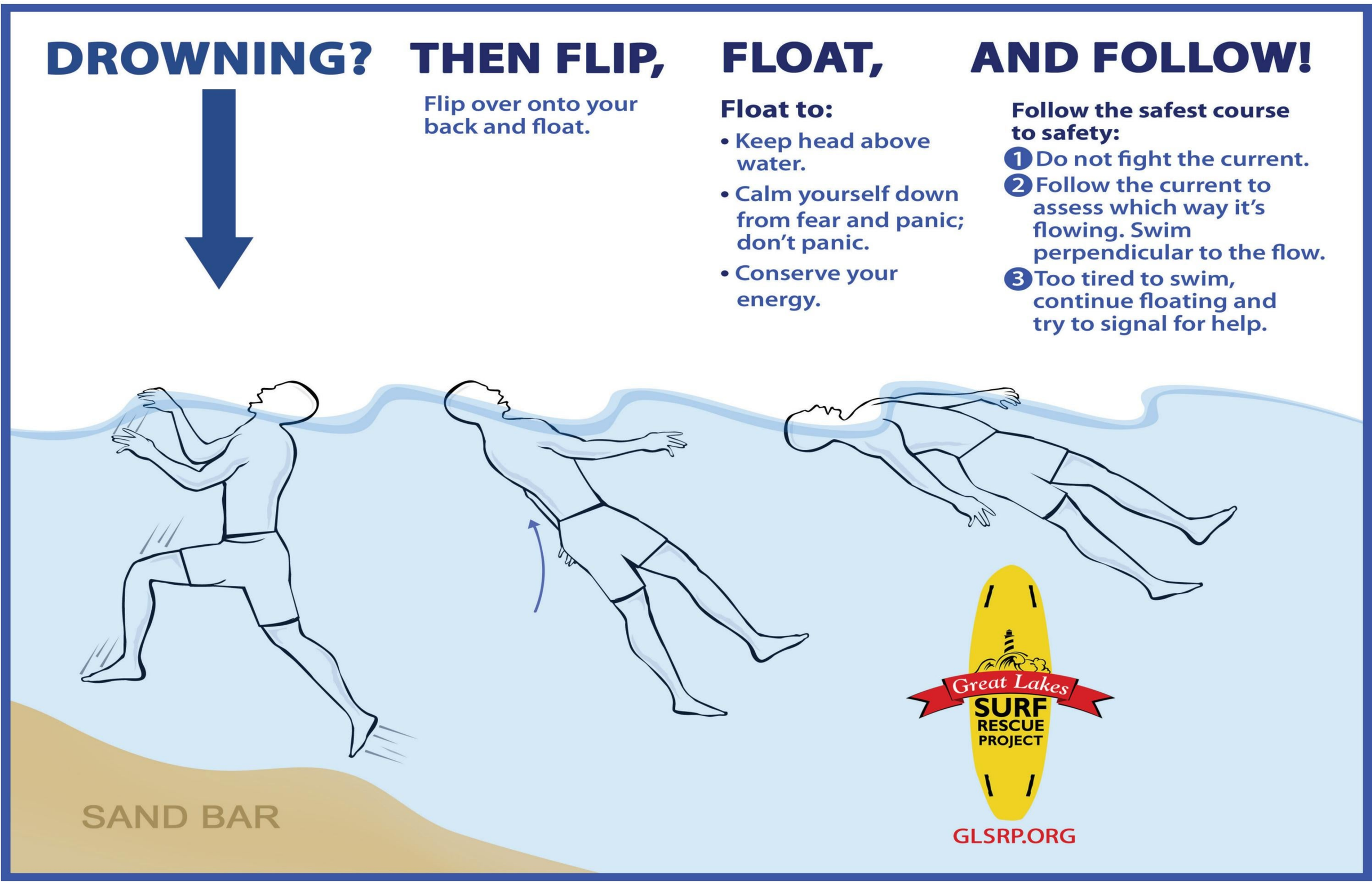
School of American Music instructor Tom Parisi will provide guitar accompaniment, and Harbor Country Singers members Lance Olson, Diane Ruzevich, Donna Mitchell, Pat Putnam, and Jill Christie will be song leaders.

"Please come and join the fun in singing all these great old songs that we all know and love around the campfire. Thanks to the Episcopal Church of the Mediator for partnering with us for this event," Pat Putnam, HCS producer, said.

The Harbor Country Singers community choir is a program of the School of American Music (SAM) and is supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund.

For more information, contact SAM at 269-409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or visit School of American Music on Facebook or the website www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. —

STAFF REPORTS


DROWNING?
THEN FLIP,
Flip over onto your back and float.
FLOAT,
Float to:
• Keep head above water.
• Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don't panic.
• Conserve your energy.
AND FOLLOW!
Follow the safest course to safety:
1 Do not fight the current.
2 Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
3 Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.
SAND BAR
Great Lakes SURF RESCUE PROJECT
GLSRP.ORG

Music for the ages at Acorn Music Festival

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Music that spanned a variety of genres and generations was given the spotlight at the second annual Acorn Music Festival Friday through Sunday, June 14-16.

Featuring artists with music rooted in the music and artistry of American music, this year's festival featured festival headliners Red Wanting Blue, The Verve Pipe and Heartless Bastards. They were joined by original artists in a variety of genres – folk, country, pop, rock, singer-songwriter, bluegrass, alternative, roots, blues, jazz and more.

Audience members enjoy music in The Acorn's outdoor space

The Verve Pipe headlines Saturday's stage

Joe Pug performs Saturday at The Acorn

Eric O'Daly performs in The Acorn's outdoor space

HIKERS PLAN TRIP TO INDIANA COUNTY PARK

The Harbor County Hikers will explore Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park in Osceola, Indiana Saturday, June 29.

The hike gets underway at 10 a.m., starting with a brief introduction to the park by county naturalist and hike leader Jan McGowan.

Ferrettie/Baugo Creek Park was created in the 1980s on land that had been used as a town dump. Reclaiming a natural area that has been strongly impacted by human activities presents some special challenges, which will be explained during the hike.

Apart from hiking trails, the park offers disc golf, fishing, an inner tubing hill in winter and paddling on Baugo Creek. Plants unusual in this area, such as Green Dragon and Ohio Buckeye, can be found on the south side of the park.

Though membership is preferred, all are welcome to participate. The group recommends hikers wear long pants (preferably tucked in), sturdy shoes or boots, a sun hat and insect repellent, and bring plenty of water. The 2.5-mile trail is rated moderately physically difficult.

For more details, including driving directions to the park, visit the Harbor Country Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.com, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

Calvary Chapel New Buffalo
CALVARYCHAPELNB.ORG
We are a non-denominational church teaching through the bible line by line
Sunday service 1015 ET
Thursday bible study 7pm ET
Saturday men's bible study 915 ET in person and zoom
Saturday women's bible study 1030 ET on zoom
1615 E Buffalo St. New Buffalo, Mi

pharmhouse WELLNESS
21+ Cannabis Dispensary
Bring in this coupon for a free gift with your next purchase!*
*While supplies Last.
Located @19267 US12
• Curbside
• In-store Shopping
pharmhouse WELLNESS .COM GRown

Virtual life sentence in murder and body dismemberment

BY STAN MADDUX

The punishment was short of the maximum but still long enough, perhaps, to keep locked up a killer who disposed of the victim's rotting body parts in trash cans

John Hallett, 54, was sentenced to 55 years for murder and one more year for abuse of a corpse by La Porte Superior Court 1 Judge Jamie Oss Thursday, June 13.

Hallett could have received up to 65 years on the murder charge and another 30 months on the lesser felony count.

Despite the gruesome acts related to the killing, La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said he was pleased with the sentence because the chances of Hallett ever being free again, given his age, are very low.

"As long as justice is being served to Mr. Gonzales and his family, that's what really matters," he said.

In 2017, evidence shows Hallett choked to death Paul Gonzales, 64, and left his body on the basement floor for nearly two months at their home in the 1000 block of W. 9th Street.

He used a hack saw to cut up the body and disposed of the decaying parts in municipal trash cans.

Fagan said none of the remains, which presumably wound up in a landfill, were ever recovered.

Evidence of his death, though, was gathered in the form of microscopic material gathered forensically from the pores of the concrete where his body decayed.

The investigation showed the men were living on the streets until placed into the home together by a group serving the homeless.

According to court documents, law enforcement did not know about the murder until 2022, when Hallett called Michigan City Police and claimed he took the life of his former roommate.

Hallett claimed he killed him because he suspected Gonzales was stealing his mail and trying to get him evicted, police said.

An arrest wasn't made until about a year later after enough information was gathered to substantiate his claims.

Fagan also said he was not surprised more prison time wasn't contained in the sentence, feeling the judge carefully weighed all of the factors.

"It was a good outcome," he said.

INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE • SUCCESS
L & B
LaRose & Bosco, Ltd.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
CHICAGO, IL • NEW BUFFALO, MI
MARK A. LAROSE
mlarose@laroseboscolaw.com
Real Estate, Business Law, Commercial Transactions, Injury Law
New Buffalo: (269) 469-8440
Chicago: (312) 642-4414

AT YOUR SERVICE
A COMPANY OF CRAFTSMEN
WWW.ATYOURSERVICE.BUILDERS
T.269.358.8159
CUSTOM: HOMES | RENOVATION | COMMERCIAL

30 N Whittaker St
Deli by day
David's delicatessen & coffee
NEW BUFFALO · MICHIGAN
Open 6 days
davidsdeliandcoffee.com

30 N Whittaker St
Bar by night
the FALSE FRONT
NEW BUFFALO · MI
Open Thursday-Monday
thefalsefrontbar.com

21+ GRAND OPENING
THE FLOWER BOWL
INDICA
PURITY & POTENCY
PREMIUM DISTILLATE CART
STRAWBERRY KUSH
PINEAPPLE EXPRESS
MKX XXTRA STRENGTH GUMMIES
THE FLOWER BOWL
NEW BUFFALO
FREE WEED
& 50% OFF
See Store for Details!
MKX
Empire
10168 US-12 E | NEW BUFFALO, MI
WWW.FLOWERBOWL.COM

WHEN YOU LOOK GOOD, YOU FEEL GOOD
the Love Spell boutique
9 W MECHANIC ST
NEW BUFFALO, MI

BOOK YOUR EVENT TODAY!!!
BANQUET HALL
SEATS 55 PEOPLE
AL FUEGO
GRILL & BAR
MEXICAN RESTAURANT
BREAKFAST
LUNCH • DINNER
OPEN DAILY • 7AM-10PM
18529 Harbor Country Drive
NEW BUFFALO
FIND US ON GOOGLE

OBITUARIES

Ernest E. Jelinek
1919-2024

Ernest E. Jelinek, 104, passed away Wednesday, May 22, 2024, in his home in Sarasota, Florida.

He was born in Three Oaks, Michigan, on September 1, 1919, to Joseph and Anna (Kulka) Jelinek.

Ernest graduated from Three Oaks High School in 1937. He and his two brothers, John and Edward started Jelinek Brothers Farm and Jelinek Brothers Dairy in New Buffalo.

In 1941, Ernie was drafted into the US Army where he became a Captain and served under General George Patton. As a member of the 5th Armored Division, he landed on Utah Beach on D-Day.

Ernie came home in 1945 and was recalled to service for the Korean War in October 1950 and was discharged in March 1952.

He joined the Bank of Three Oaks and served there as vice president for nineteen years. In 1964, he became co-owner of the PEMCO Die Casting Corporation and retired in 1975.

In 1945, Ernie married his childhood sweetheart Geraldine Sobotka, and they enjoyed sixty-five years of devoted marriage until her death in 2011. They made their home in Lakeside, Michigan until moving to Sarasota, Florida.

Ernie was an avid golfer, served several years as a director and treasurer of the Berrien County Youth Fair, a founding member of the Lakeshore Rotary and was involved in farming operations with his brother Ed until their retirement.

He was proceeded in death by his wife; his parents; his two brothers, John Jelinek, Edward Jelinek; and one nephew John Jelinek.

He is survived by nieces, Nancy Riemann of Wamego, Kansas, Amy (Bob) Grey of South Bend, Indiana; nephews Jim (Teddie) Jelinek of New Buffalo, Ron (Dianne) Jelinek, and Tom (Marilyn) Jelinek of Three Oaks.

Family and friends will gather for a graveside service at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 26, 2024, in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Three Oaks.

Memorials may be made to the Berrien County Youth Fair Post Office Box 7, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103.

Inturnment arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

Debra Leona Lidke
1955-2024

Debra Leona Lidk e, 67, of Three Oaks, died June 13, 2024, in her home.

Her life began June 14, 1955 in Michigan City, Indiana, the youngest child born to Meryl Russell.

Debra enjoyed working in the yard. She like to mow the grass and plant flowers when she could. She loved cats; especially her current fur baby, Carver.

Debra will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by sister, Wendy Williams of Galien; brother, Bruce Spears of Arkansas; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother-in-law, Allen Williams Sr.; and her nephew, Joshua Williams.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Debra be made to the Humane Society of Southwest Michigan, 5400 South Niles Road, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

Marjorie Lorraine "Marge" Koth
1930-2024

Marjorie Lorraine "Marge" Koth, 94, of Baroda, died peacefully, Monday, June 17, 2024, in the West Woods of Bridgman.

Her life began April 13, 1930 in Weesaw Township, Michigan, the youngest of two daughters born to Eugene and Henrietta Wells. She married Dale Louis Koth in Three Oaks, February 3, 1950. After seventy-three years of marriage, he preceded her in death June 24, 2023.

Fishing was a favorite pastime that Marge and Dale enjoyed for many years. Many times, you could find a note on the table that said, "Gone Fishing."

Marge will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her daughter, Lynne Keefer of Three Oaks; grandchildren, Kelly (Amy) Keefer of Galien, Karen Keefer-Clay of Three Oaks; great grandchildren, Rose Keefer, Drew Holub, Ava Holub, Nora Keefer, Jaren Christ and Makena Christ; sister-in-law, Bernadine Trent of Zephyrhills, Florida; brothers-in-law, Edmund (Trudy) Koth of Three Oaks, Eugene (Linda) Koth of Three Oaks; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her beloved husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Betty Kramer; and son-in-law, Robert Keefer.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

The family would like to thank the staff of the West Woods of Bridgman for the love and care they gave to Marge and Dale.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Marge be made to Caring Circle Hospice, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

JUNE 20-26, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You will be able to see deeply into the heart of matters and know exactly how to motivate people to action. Turn this ability inwards and identify your own fears or limitations, and encourage yourself to push past these restrictions. Let anger or frustration push you deeper towards a place of healing.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Interactions with others will be very mentally stimulating, prompting you to take a short trip to investigate. Innovative topics will draw you into group activities that will help to promote your career or public life. Don't be surprised if there are some emotionally charged outburst or declarations.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You may come off as clumsy or physically awkward this week, but you will be keenly on target with the emotional and intellectual components of the situation. So, don't let insecurities or embarrassment keep you from approaching people you feel a strong connection with or that can truly help you.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

A strong, spiritual warrior type energy is coming your way this week. Use it to its fullest by engaging with others more or getting involved in some type of mental journeying. Whether you spend some quiet time in meditation or engage in some type of yoga, be open to more intimate experiences.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

This is a wonderful time to hone in on family relationships and accept things that you cannot control or change. You can accept the changes you need to make and you have a clear picture of the sacrifices that need to be made on your part, but you can't make those decisions for others.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Strange statements or emotional outbursts from partners or siblings may cause you to reevaluate your behavior or participation level within the relationship. You are good at dissecting situations to get a clearer picture of the truth, so you will easily deduce the real problem or issue.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This is a perfect time for healing, understanding, and realigning your actions to promote positive change. There is some very strong supportive energy coming from the stars to you, that will help you to balance home responsibilities and career obligations. A very innovative and stabilizing week!

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Promote and pursue those creative ideas this week. Pitch new concepts and designs no matter how unusual or different they seem because people around you will be ready to try new things. Also, turn that creative eye towards your home and try some new color schemes or different furniture layouts.

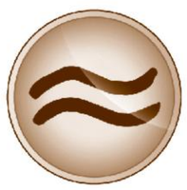
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Forever the shaman, you are not afraid to strike out on your own to seek enlightenment. You are willing to sacrifice familial security for universal healing, but don't fear, your family and loved ones understand your need for adventure and will provide proper sustenance upon your return.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You are heading into a very socially active period, where you will be much more vocal and willing to share your thoughts. Conversations may lean towards the more emotional type, but your ability to identify value systems and give good rational advice will keep things on a higher note.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



You will be blessed with long vision this week, giving you the ability to see the bigger picture. Having foresight will help you align your actions and discussions in ways that have a big impact later on. You may be going it solo now, but trust that the right people will be there, when you need them.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

There will be a strong intuitive sense about you this week, and you will be very aware of what other people are feeling and what talents they possess. This will help you collaborate better with others and produce some very original ideas. You are ready for the project, with an old friend at your side.

In the beginning, I wanted to be successful. I wanted to make and have hit records. — *George Strait*

THE BENDT SHOVEL
Perennial Garden Maintenance
Sandra Bendt
(219) 874-2269

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	1	3					2	
				2		4		
9		8			4			
				5	9	2		
		2		6				
	8				3	1	6	
		4	6					
				3				5
	3				8		1	

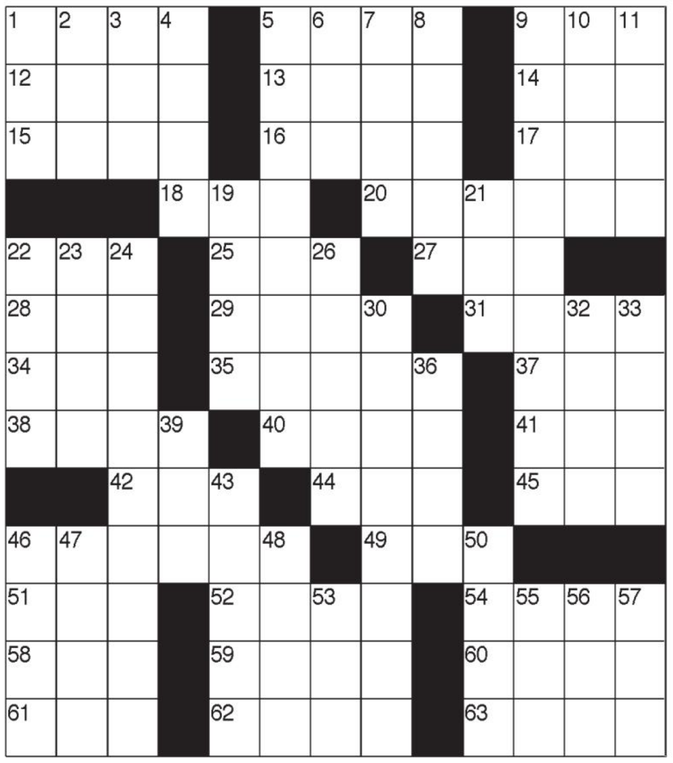
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Broad structural basin
5 Prayer beads
9 Island
12 In the same place (Lat.)
13 Above
14 Cheer
15 Verdi opera
16 Shortly
17 Nat'l Security Agency (abbr.)
18 Drunk driving (abbr.)
20 House (Fr.)
22 Article
25 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)
27 Explosive letters
28 King
29 Wound mark
31 Dull color
34 Dance company (abbr.)
35 Immature insect
37 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
38 Lake
40 Television channel
41 Peeve
42 According to (2 words)
44 Atomic Energy Commission (abbr.)
45 Born
46 Enlarge
49 Body of water
51 Small (Scot.)
52 Ireland
54 Wildly talk
58 Insult
59 Pain
60 Nurse shark
61 Ibsen character
62 Grass
63 Us dam

DOWN

1 Aunt (Sp.)
2 Mother of Hezekia
3 Top
4 Irish exclamation
5 Presa (2 words)
6 P.I. volcano
7 Emerge
8 Yearly church payment
9 Pressure
10 And
11 Birth a lamb
19 Stinging insect
21 Indiana (abbr.)
22 Trolley
23 Daughter of Zeus
24 Insert (2 words)
26 Rom. box
30 Colza
32 Berne's river
33 Roast
36 Noun-forming (suf.)
39 Guido's note (2 words)
43 Almost
46 Grape disease
47 Christmas (abbr.)
48 Gaming cubes
50 Ship of the Argonauts
53 Fluidity unit
55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
56 Ultimate degree
57 To (Scot.)



ADVERTISING . MARKET . DIGITAL
New Buffalo Times
PLEASE CONTACT
JANINE L. ADAMSKI
JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM
630-370-0820

Industrial solar farm construction approved in La Porte County

BY STAN MADDUX

Plans to produce a lot of energy from the sun on more than 3,300 acres of farmland were given final approval Tuesday, June 18, by the La Porte County Board of Zoning Appeals.

By a 3 to 2 vote, the BZA granted a special exception to the current agricultural zoning for RWE Clean Energy, LLC. to build a solar farm projected to produce enough electricity to power 68,000 homes annually.

The Chicago based firm has 130 solar projects operating in the U.S.

Construction of solar panels and other infrastructure to serve the operation will begin early in 2025, according to the plans.

The $500 million dollar facility will stretch from Kankakee to Wills and Pleasant townships.

The BZA voted without any discussion from its members or accepting public comment after listening extensively to both sides during its May 21 meeting and workshop sessions in previous weeks.,

"We already heard evidence and remonstrance," said BZA president Melissa Mischke.

The BZA voted to table the plans last month to give them a final review before deciding the request.

Farmers like Mike Ekovich, whose dairy is just 400 feet away from the site, was among the opponents at the jam packed meeting.

"It borders us on all three sides," he said.

One of his concerns is the site becoming an eyesore particularly for him and other nearby farmers.

"You got the farm landscape your whole life and then you got to deal with this," he said.

The company has agreed to provide setbacks of at least 250 feet from other properties, vegetative screening from homes and bury cables three and four feet below the ground within and away from site.

Other requirements include doing things to control glare from the solar panels and design the facility to control storm water drainage.

"I have two and a half pages of conditions set for the solar project and many of them mirror what I believe will be additions to our solar ordinance," said BZA attorney Craig Biege.

Ekovich said one of his concerns hasn't been addressed, though.

He's worried about the possibility of low volumes of electricity straying from the site

and coming into contact with some of his 1,000 cows.

Ekovich said electricity can jump from things like bad grounding of the solar panels and loose wiring.

He said cows drinking water on wet concrete surfaces, for example, would feel a tingling sensation and could produce less milk from contact with any stray voltage.

"That's a very big concern of ours," he said.

According to Emily McDuff, an engineer and project manager with RWE Clean Energy, said the power from the solar farm would help replace the electricity to be lost when coal fired generating plants in Indiana, such as the NIPSCO generating station in Michigan City, shutdown in the next couple of years.

She also said about a dozen farm land owners would no longer have to worry about selling their properties for future financial security with the supplemental income they'll be paid for use of their ground under lease agreements.

McDuff said the solar farm would also mean about $100 million in property tax revenue for local governments over the lifetime of the operation.

After 35 years, McDuff said the solar farm would be decommissioned and the property restored to farmland.

BZA member John Carr said he saw no downsides to the project, calling some of the concerns "myths" after doing extensive research about solar farms.

He said the remainder of the concerns were addressed to his satisfaction by the company.

"With the amount of tax revenue this project is going to generate and the amount of jobs that it's going to generate to building the solar farm, it's a win, win," he said.

Carr also said local governments shouldn't tell people what they can do with their land as long as neighbors aren't going to be harmed.

"At the end of the day I think it comes down to personal property rights," he said.

Farmer Steve Holifield, who lives a few miles from where the solar farm is planned, said he's concerned about the loss of farm land and even more if the decision attracts other solar farm projects.

His other fears include the soil will not be as productive once the site is restored to farm land along with loss of property value and quality of life.

Holifield said he respects the rights of property owners as long as nearby land owners are not negatively impacted.

"We've never argued they don't have the right to do what they want but you don't have the right to devalue or take away the enjoyment of another person's rights on their private property. That whole thing was ignored," he said.

Biege said construction expected to begin early next year is projected to be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Friends of New Troy launches $50,000 Crowdfunding campaign to make community center accessible

Friends of New Troy (FONT) has proudly announced the launch of a significant crowdfunding campaign aimed at revitalizing the exterior of the New Troy Community Center and improving the safety, accessibility and curb appeal.

This initiative seeks to raise $50,000, which will be generously matched dollar-for-dollar by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Public Spaces Community Places grant, doubling the total funds to $100,000.

The campaign funds will be allocated to several crucial upgrades designed to enhance the safety, accessibility and aesthetic appeal of the community center, making it a more vibrant and welcoming hub for Weesaw Township and neighboring residents. Key enhancements include:

Parking Lot: Resurface and restripe the deteriorated parking lot that is cracked, uneven and full of potholes.

Entrances: Level and resurface the two main walkways which are cracked and uneven. Add new seating and lighting to make the space more welcoming and usable year-round.

Facade: Enhance the exterior with wooden architectural elements and planters to warm the space and make it more inviting, while improving the curb appeal by disguising unsightly pipes and trash cans.

Memorial Garden: Level the bricks in the existing Memorial Garden and add landscaping elements to make this feature more prominent and visible.

Walking Path: Install an ADA-compliant walking path from the parking lot to the Memorial Garden for accessibility and safety.

Signage: Install a new large sign near the front entrance to replace the weathered and dated sign for improved visibility and community pride.

"As an entirely volunteer-run organization, we at Friends of New Troy have proudly completed numerous upgrades to our community center," said FONT President Victoria Petroff. "Now, we are turning our attention to the exterior to create an even more inviting and inclusive environment. This revitalization is not just about beautification; it's about bringing our community together, enhancing accessibility, and building a space that fosters connection and unity."

Terry Hanover, vice president of FONT, commented on the community's role in the project's success.

"Given the tremendous enthusiasm and support we've already seen from the community, we are confident that we can reach our ambitious fundraising goal. We are incredibly grateful for the MEDC's generous matching grant, which effectively doubles the impact of each donation, helping us bring our vision to life," he said.

The crowdfunding campaign is hosted on the Patronicity platform, where donors can contribute directly. Contributions of any size are crucial and appreciated, with special recognition planned for significant donations:

All Donors: Recognized on social media, newsletter and website.

$1,000+ Donors: Honored with an engraved brass leaf on the donor tree at the main entrance.

$5,000+ Donors: Commemorated on the project plaque

To support the campaign and help FONT reach the $50,000 goal, visit patronicity.com/FONT. Those who prefer to give by cash or check, should bring or mail their donations to Friends of New Troy, 13372 California Road, New Troy, MI 49119.

Friends of New Troy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing community life in Weesaw Township. Through initiatives aimed at improving community spaces and fostering social connections, FONT aims to create an environment where all residents can engage and thrive.

For more information, to donate, or to get involved, please visit www.friendsofnewtroy.org. Public Spaces Community Places is a collaborative effort of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Michigan Municipal League, and Patronicity, in which local residents can use crowdfunding to be part of the development of strategic projects in their communities and be backed with a matching grant from MEDC. — STAFF REPORTS

Combine destroyed by fire after being repaired

BY STAN MADDUX

Fire destroyed a large piece of farm machinery in La Porte County while it was being driven home from a shop, where it underwent repairs.

La Porte County Police said the combine was northbound on U.S 421 when the owner and driver, Matt Goetz, noticed smoke coming from the back end.

Goetz pulled into a field near County Road 1000 South outside Wanatah then spotted flames, which quickly engulfed the right side of the combine, police said.

He said the right side is where the fire was burning under the 250 to 300 gallon fuel tank, which was full.

The fire spread rapidly once a hole burned through the plastic tank, allowing all of the leaking fuel to be consumed by the flames.

"I couldn't get it out before it got into the fuel tank," he said.

A large plume of black smoke filtered into the air until the flames were extinguished by firefighters.

Goetz said four of the six tires on the combine made gunshot-sounds from the release of air at high pressure when melted by the heat.

According to police, Goetz told investigators he just had $17,000 in repairs done to the combine at a dealership in LaCrosse and was heading home after picking it up from the shop about 4 p.m. on June 12.

"I thought it would be an easy ending to the day then this happened," he said.

The Goetz family farm raises corn, soybeans along with seed wheat.

Goetz said he has another combine to use, if necessary, as a back-up for gathering his 50 acres of wheat that should be ready to harvest in a few weeks.

He said the dealership has also offered him the use of one of their combines, if necessary.

Goetz said the destroyed combine, a 2009 International Harvester, was insured to help cover the loss.

"We're going to be talking to the dealership soon and see what we can come up with for a replacement. We should be able to find something reasonable," he said.

Goetz said he has no idea what caused the fire, which he's glad didn't happen during the fall when a vast majority of his harvesting occurs.

"At least we weren't in the middle of cutting soybeans or harvesting corn and have the combine go down. I guess it's the right time of the year for it to happen," he said.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
HARBOR COUNTRY INSURANCE AGENCY
Gregory A. Bubb, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI
www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.com

Web Design Genesis
Genesis Web Design
St Joseph, MI
269.429.7014
Design • Maintenance • Hosting

PROFESSIONALS IN ALL OF YOUR TREE CARE NEEDS
MAPLE CITY TREE SPECIALISTS
REMOVAL
TOPPING
TRIMMING
STUMP GRINDING
PRESERVATION
STORM DAMAGE
LOT & LAND CLEARING
FREE ESTIMATES
Commercial • Residential
37 Years Experience • Insured
DENNIS JEFFERS, SR.
219-393-3155
maplecitytree@comcast.net

Local IT Service for Your Business
Equipment installations, upgrades, repairs, wifi issues, data backup, security, and much more. No need to call anywhere else, when the best is already right here.
NEED A NERD
269-612-4648
Read customer reviews at www.need-a-nerd.net
Member of the New Buffalo Business Association

NEW BUFFALO ELECTRIC
Same Company, New Owners!
Electricians you can trust.
269.469.1720
newbuffaloelectric.com
7 E Clay Street
New Buffalo, MI 49117

LARGEST SELECTION OF SPAS in the Area!
Artesian Spas · Nordic Hot Tubs · CalderaSpas Come to Life
SENSATIONAL Spas
Monday-Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-2
5595 Red Arrow Hwy.
Stevensville
269-429-7171
35 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
WWW.SENSATIONALHOTTUBS.COM

Amish Built Barns LLC
Largest Amish Dealer in SW Michigan
100 + MODELS ON LOT!
Custom Built!
Rent to Own (Everyone Approved)
No Credit Check!!
Sizes from 8'x8' to 32'x40'
AmishBuiltBarns.com • 269-876-1323 • 2305 M-139, Benton Harbor, MI
(Old Blossom Lanes Bowling Alley)

ABUSE HOTLINE
You are not alone... we are here... 24/7
Sexual Abuse Hotline: 855-779-6495
Domestic Violence Hotline: 269-925-9500
TheAvenue.ngo/CoraLampingCenter
Cora Lamping Center • The Pokagon Fund Supported

Public Notice:
Your right to know!

for

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

This newspaper supports your right to know.

PET OF THE WEEK

WALLIE

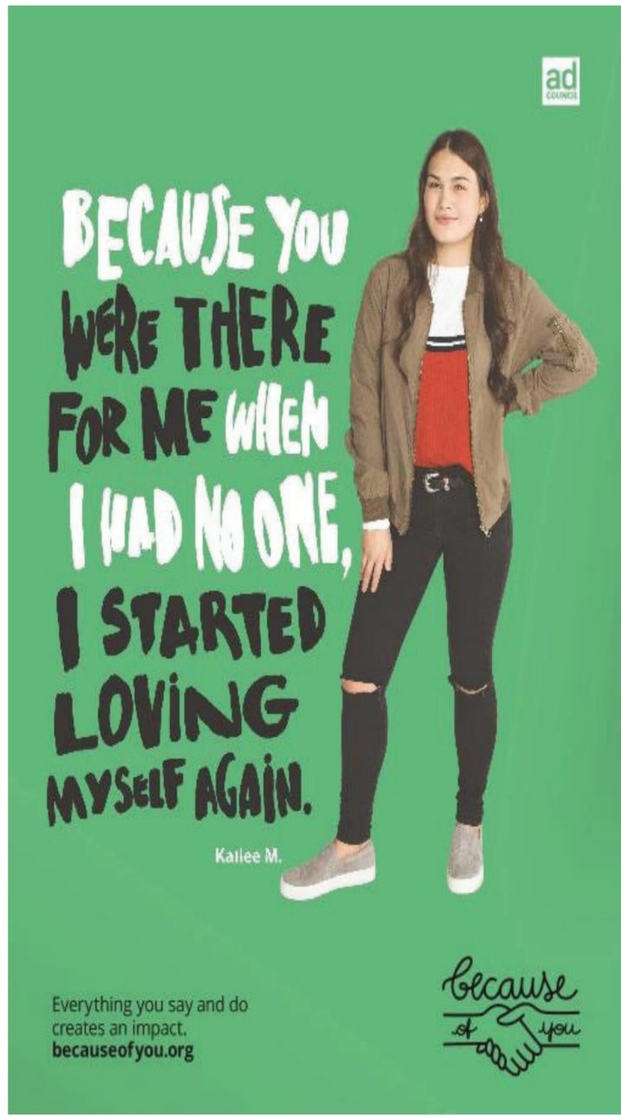
Wallie doesn't believe that you need personal space, as he will do his best to be a Velcro kitty and integrate himself into every aspect of your life that he can. He is about two years old, child- and cat-friendly, neutered, and up-to-date with his vaccinations. Wallie loves feathery toys, and can grasp them with his swift paws and never let go. He'd love to be your resident feline's fur-brother. Wallie's basically a social butterfly in a cat's body.

AVAIAIBLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

4	1	3	5	8	6	9	2	7
7	5	6	9	2	1	4	3	8
9	2	8	3	7	4	6	5	1
6	4	1	8	5	9	2	7	3
3	9	2	1	6	7	5	8	4
5	8	7	2	4	3	1	6	9
8	7	4	6	1	5	3	9	2
1	6	9	7	3	2	8	4	5
2	3	5	4	9	8	7	1	6

T	A	L	A	■	M	A	L	A	■	C	A	Y
I	B	I	D	■	U	P	O	N	■	O	L	E
A	I	D	A	■	S	O	O	N	■	N	S	A
■	■	■	D	W	I	■	M	A	I	S	O	N
T	H	E	■	A	C	C	■	T	N	T	■	■
R	E	X	■	S	C	A	R	■	D	R	A	B
A	B	T	■	P	U	P	A	E	■	A	A	A
M	E	R	E	■	E	S	P	N	■	I	R	K
■	■	A	L	A	■	A	E	C	■	N	E	E
E	X	P	A	N	D	■	S	E	A	■	■	■
S	M	A	■	E	I	R	E	■	R	A	N	T
C	A	G	■	A	C	H	E	■	G	A	T	A
A	S	E	■	R	E	E	D	■	O	A	H	E


ad COUNCIL
BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE FOR ME WHEN I HAD NO ONE, I STARTED LOVING MYSELF AGAIN.
Kailee M.
Everything you say and do creates an impact.
becauseofyou.org
because of you

Dawn McKenna Group celebrates New Buffalo launch

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Known as the "#1 leading real estate team in the Midwest, Southwest Florida and Park City (Utah) for Coldwell Banker," the Chicago-based Dawn McKenna Group (DMG) has now put down roots in New Buffalo.

To celebrate, principal Dawn McKenna threw a party at her beach house in New Buffalo Saturday, June 15.

"We've invited all of Michiana, all of Long Beach, all of Grand Beach and then our whole sphere of Chicago to come and see what Michigan is like," she said.

The celebration included a flower bar and refreshments from local businesses, such as The Goblin and the Grocer out of Beverly Shores and Tabor Hill Winery.

DMG has an office at Coldwell Banker in New Buffalo, which is located at 10 N. Whittaker Street.

Real estate agents Peggy Sayre and Mara Walsh and Benadette Kettwig, director of sales, are licensed in Michigan and Indiana.

A resident of New Buffalo, Sayre has worked for DMG since 2016 and focuses on communities from Michigan City up to Sawyer. Currently, she has four short-term rentals in New Buffalo. Having worked in real estate for several years, Walsh said she and her husband have owned a residence in Union Pier for 15 years before making Sawyer a permanent residence four years ago.

Residing in Union Pier is Kettwig.

"They're actually boots on the ground selling things and I'm more of the face for the brand and taking care of everything with a bird's eye view - but they're our local experts," McKenna said.

Having started DMG in Hinsdale, Illinois, McKenna said that she grew her brand in 2017 to the North Shore area in downtown Chicago.

Today, DMG has offices in Chicago's Gold Coast and Lincoln Park, Hinsdale, Lake Forest and Winnetka, Lake Geneva, New Buffalo, and on 5th Avenue in Naples, Florida, and Park City, Utah.

"We kind of said, 'Oh my gosh, all these people are coming from the city, we can get them at the source as opposed to most people having to wait for them to call them to come here,'" McKenna said.

DMG consists of a team of 32 people, with 20 agents.

Since most of the members of that team are women, McKenna refers to them as "a sisterhood."

"When they come in and are like, 'We got a great listing' - that's fun, so I feel like this really changed my life and my husband's life and the four kids I raised off this profession and I feel like I have a little part in them changing their lives and we all have a great sense of purpose and most of us had kids and now most of those kids are grown," she said.

Having a "global reach" is what propels DMG into the spotlight.

"We can say to buyers, when we're listing their house in the suburbs or listing their house in the city, 'Have you thought about Michigan, have you thought about Lake Geneva for a lake house?'" she said.

For those who like a property but don't see it on the market, McKenna said that it's likely that their agents will know who owns it "because we handled their stuff in the city."

Similar to their other markets, McKenna said that "nothing's too small or too big" for them in Harbor Country.

"We have a lot of cool listings coming - some in wine country, some just land, some farms, some lake houses, some cool kinds of investment property, so there's a plethora of things we can do," she said.

For more on Dawn McKenna Group, visit www.dawnmckennagroup.com.

Mara Walsh, Dawn McKenna and Peggy Sayre at the launch event

Christine Schaub presents guests with flower arrangements

Allyson and Kate Mattes enjoy a game of golf

Susan, Anthony and Carmen Rocco, Debbie and Phil Cali, and Diana and Ralph Anderson relax at the open house

Abner Bustos and Eli Hernandez provide the entertainment

Mixing and mingling, while enjoying the lake views

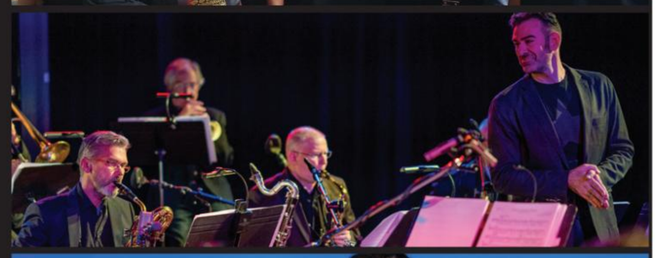
the ACORN
THREE OAKS MICHIGAN

Best live music in Harbor Country

UPCOMING SHOWS

Danielle Nicole
FRI 6/21 8 P.M. ET

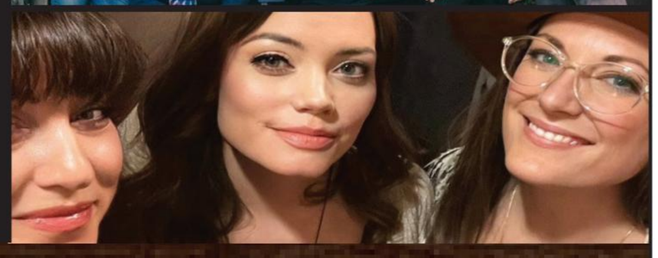
Sankofa
Midwest Made
SUN 6/23 7 P.M. ET



Metropolitan Jazz Octet
The Bowie Project
FRI 6/28 8 P.M. ET

Birds of a Feather
Acorn Tree House
SAT 6/29 12 P.M. ET

Heartache Tonight
A Tribute to The Eagles
SAT 6/29 8 P.M. ET



The Backups
Midwest Made
SUN 6/30 7 P.M. ET

Find more events at
acornlive.org
the one and only

FEEL AT EASE WITH McGHEE'S

McGHEE'S
Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
EMERGENCY SERVICE • LICENSED & INSURED

FREE
Ecobee 3 Thermostat; Aprilaire Media Air Cleaner; plus 1 Year FREE C.A.R.E. Club Maintenance Program with installation of a furnace and air conditioner.

Carrier
Turn to the experts

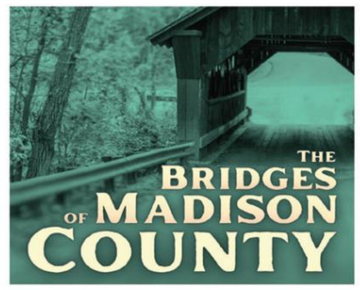
269-466-0123
7301 Red Arrow Hwy., Stevensville, MI 49127

dunesARTS
Summer Theatre
288 Shady Oak Drive Michigan City, Indiana

2024 Season

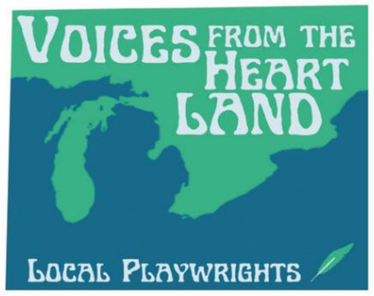
May 31 - June 16, Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
Blithe Spirit
By Noel Coward
"One of Coward's indisputable comic masterpieces" *The Daily Telegraph*

June 28 - July 14, Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
Talley's Folly
By Lanford Wilson
"A funny, sweet, touching and marvelously written love poem for an apple and an orange" *New York Post*



July 26 - August 11, Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
Bridges of Madison County
Book by Marsha Norman, music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown
"Romance comes sweeping down the plains in a passionate new musical" *TimeOut New York*

August 15 - 17, Thurs/Fri/Sat 7pm, CST
Romantic Journeys
Music Director **Andrew Flasch**
Stage Director **Steve Scott**



September 19 - 22, Thurs/Fri/Sat 7pm, Sun 2pm, CST
2nd Annual New Plays Festival

Scan this QR code to purchase tickets and to learn more about the shows.

Purchase Tickets

More info at
www.dunesARTS.org

Passaro, Kahne, Taylor, DeFrancesco, & Thompson
LAW OFFICES *your local common-sense legal team*
685 West Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 983-0325 | passarokahne.com
17656A US Highway 12, New Buffalo, MI 49117 | (269) 469-5297 | Fax: (269) 983-0328

- *Business/Tax Law*
- *Estate Planning*
- *Medicaid & Long-Term Care Planning*
- *Real Estate*
- *Special Needs Planning*
- *Probate and Trust Administration*

Goals are dreams with *confidence.*
Transfer high-interest debt to a low-rate Everwise credit card. Get all of the perks, with none of the annual fees.
everwisecu.com/creditcards
everwise CREDIT UNION
Subject to membership requirements and credit approval. Federally insured by NCUA.

RIOS
PREMIUM MEXICAN CUISINE
NEW BUFFALO

Largest Selection
Lowest Prices
21+
Bloomery
NEW BUFFALO EXIT 1
MITTEN EXTRACTS
OVER 1 MILLION SOLD
VAPES • PREROLLS • GUMMIES
Available at Bloomery New Buffalo

TREECORE
COMPLETE TREE & CRANE SERVICE
269-469-6226
Fully Insured JOE CARR

Trust It To Be Wonderful
Timothy's RESTAURANT
16409 Red Arrow Highway | Union Pier